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Dated: October 12, 2005

Signature: Martina Placid

(Martina Placid)

Docket No.: 223002010005  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Application No.: 09/884,456

Art Unit: 1652

Filed: June 18, 2001

Examiner: W. Moore

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated April 12, 2005, for which a response was due on July 12, 2005. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to October 12, 2005.

Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in light of the remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.